

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /132 W

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P R 111735Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9591

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CIA

DIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 0198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MILI, BE, NATO

SUBJECT: REPORTED DISSAPPEARANCE OF MISSILES

REF: A. BRUSSELS 0154. B. BRUSSELS 0180.

1. DCM REQUESTED EXPLANATION FROM MOTERDAEME, CHEF DE CABINET OF FOREIGN MINISTER, OF STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN THAT MISSILES HAVE DIS-APPEARED FROM EUROPEAN DESPOTS. DCM NOTED IMPLICATION IN MANY NEWS SOTRIES THAT MISSIELS WERE MISSING FROM NATO BASES AND THAT MISSILES WERE OF U.S. MANUFACTURE. EMBASSY HAD NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THESE CONTENTIONS AND BELIEVED THEM TO BE ERRONEOUS. EXTENSIVE INQUIRIES WITH BELGIAN AUTHORITIES HAD REVEALED NO INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT. WE NOTED THAT
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THE STORIES COULD REFLECT ADVERSELY ON NATO AND THE

UNITED STATES. IF THE SPOKESMAN WAS MISTAKEN IN HIS STATEMENT, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO CORRECT THE MISSIMPRESSION THAT HAD GAINED CURRENCY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE BELGIANS SHOULD HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT MISSILES HAVE DISSAPPEARED FROM DEPOTS IN EUROPE, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE APPRISED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ONE CHANNEL OR ANOTHER, AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGES REGARDING THE THREAT OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY.

2. MOTERDAEME STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN AS PUZZLED AND UNHAPPY ABOUT THE MISSILE MYSTERY AS WE. HE HAD ALSO ATTEMPTED TO TRACK DOWN THE BASIS FOR THE STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SPOKESMAN PAEMEN, CALLING PAEMEN IN FOR THIS PURPOSE. PAEMEN HAD CITED AS HIS SOURCE A BELGIAN AGENCY (ONE THAT HAD EARLIER ASSURED THIS EMBASSY IT HAD NO SUCH INFORMATION.)

3. DCM NOTED DISCREPANCY WITH RESPONSE WE HAD RECEIVED TO OUR INQUIRIES. NOTERDAEME AGREED THAT U.S. SHOULD RECEIVE CLARIFICATION AND THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE TO PROVIDE A CORRECTION IF THE PRESS HAD BEEN MISINFORMED OR MISLED. HE SAID HE WOULD PURSUE THE MATTER AND LET US KNOW THE RESULTS. STRAUZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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